



DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMERCE**  
COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Regulatory Commission of Alaska

*Sarah Palin, Governor*  
*Emil Notti, Commissioner*  
*Anthony A. Price, Chairman*

February 29, 2008

Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room TW – A306  
Washington, DC 20554

Karen Majcher  
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

RE: Alaska Supplemental Certification of Universal Service Support Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 54.313(d)(6).

Dear Ms. Dortch and Ms. Majcher:

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (Alaska Commission) hereby files this supplement to its 2008 annual certification to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Universal Service Administration Company (USAC)<sup>1</sup> on behalf of GCI.<sup>2</sup>

On January 8, 2008, the Alaska Commission granted GCI's application to be designated an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in the State of Alaska's Glacier State Study Area<sup>3</sup> pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 214(e)(2).<sup>4</sup> GCI's ETC designation for the Glacier State Study Area became effective after the annual certification deadline of October 1, 2007.<sup>5</sup> As a result, GCI requested that the Alaska Commission file this certification letter with the FCC pursuant to

<sup>1</sup> See **Attachment A**. *Alaska Certification of Support for Rural High-Cost Carriers Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Sections 54.313-314, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 00-256*, filed via First Class U. S. Mail to the FCC and USAC on September 27, 2007; and electronically to the FCC on September 27, 2007 (ECFS confirmation 2007928983963/Docket 00-256 and 2007928350406/Docket 96-45).

<sup>2</sup> GCI Communication Corp. d/b/a General Communication, Inc., and d/b/a GCI. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity 489.

<sup>3</sup> National Exchange Carrier Association Code 613010.

<sup>4</sup> See **Attachment B**. U-07-064(2) *Order Designating Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Status, Subject to Conditions; and Requiring Filings*, issued January 8, 2007 in Docket U-07-064 *In the Matter of the Request by GCI Communication Corp. d/b/a General Communication, Inc. and GCI for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Glacier State Study Area Served by ACS of the Northland, Inc. d/b/a Alaska Communications Systems, ACS Local Service and ACS*, opened June 26, 2007.

<sup>5</sup> 47 C.F.R. Sections 54.313(d) and 54.314(d).

47 C.F.R. 54.314(d)(6).<sup>6</sup> That provision provides an opportunity for newly designated ETCs to receive high-cost support although the October 1 certification deadline of 47 C.F.R. 54.314(d) has passed. In part, the provision holds that if certification is received by the FCC “within 60 days of the effective date of the carrier’s designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier” then a carrier such as GCI may be eligible for funding as of its ETC effective date.<sup>7</sup>

To that end, GCI has certified to the Alaska Commission that all federal high-cost universal service support received by it in Alaska will be used pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 254(e).<sup>8</sup> Accordingly, the Alaska Commission certifies that to the best of its knowledge, all federal high cost support that may be provided in 2008 to GCI for the Glacier State study area will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with section 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

Our certification does not preclude us from reviewing in further detail how GCI has employed its federal universal service funds and ordering that use of funds comply with our directives or policies.

Sincerely,

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA



Anthony A. Price  
Chairman

cc: Martin Weinstein, GCI

---

<sup>6</sup> *Motion for Certification of GCI’s Use of Federal High-Cost Universal Service Support in the Glacier State Study Area for Calendar Year 2008 and Motion for Expedited Consideration*, filed February 7, 2008. In response, on February 20, 2008 the Alaska Commission opened Docket U-08-009, *In the Matter of the Request Filed by GCI Communication Corp. d/b/a General Communication, Inc. and GCI for Certification of the Company’s Use of Federal Universal Service Support for Calendar Year 2008 in the Glacier State Study Area*.

<sup>7</sup> 47 CFR 54.314(d)(6).

<sup>8</sup> See **Attachment C**. *U-07-083 Data Response and Affidavit*, filed by F. W. Hitz, III on behalf of GCI, dated February 6, 2008.

## Attachment A



DEPARTMENT OF  
**COMMERCE**  
COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
Regulatory Commission of Alaska

*Sarah Palin, Governor*  
*Ernie Roth, Commissioner*  
*Anthony A. Price, Chairman*

September 27, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room TW - A306  
Washington, DC 20554

Karen Majcher  
Vice President, High Cost & Low Income Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

RE: Alaska Certification of Support for Rural High-Cost Carriers Pursuant to 47 C.F.R.  
Sections 54.313-314, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 00-256

To the Filing Representatives:

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (Alaska Commission) hereby certifies that to the best of its knowledge based on certifications filed by the utilities involved, all federal high cost support provided to regulated rural carriers in this state will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with section 254(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. This includes High Cost Loop support and Local Switching Support, and high cost support received pursuant to the purchase of exchanges. No companies in Alaska receive High Cost Model support.

Below is a list of regulated rural carriers certified as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETC's) by the Alaska Commission pursuant to sections 54.314 of the FCC's rules (47 C.F.R. § 54.314), which require states to establish an annual certification process for rural carriers receiving federal high cost support. As requested by the Universal Service Administrative Company, listed beside each carrier is its assigned study area code, if known.

ETCs subject to annual certification under 47 C.F.R. 54.314(a)	Service Area Description NECA Code	ETC Type	
		ILEC	Rural
ACS of Alaska, Inc.	Greatland - 613022 Juneau - 613012	ILEC	Rural
ACS of Fairbanks, Inc.	Fairbanks - 613008	ILEC	Rural
ACS of the Northland, Inc.	Glacier State - 613010 Sitka - 613020	ILEC	Rural
Adak Eagle Enterprises d/b/a Adak Telephone Utility	610989	ILEC	Rural
Alaska Telephone Company	613017 (all exchanges served, including previous GTE exchanges)	ILEC	Rural
Bettles Telephone, Inc.	613002	ILEC	Rural
Bush-Tell, Inc.	613004	ILEC	Rural
Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	613008	ILEC	Rural
GCI Communication Corp.	Fairbanks - 613008 Juneau - 613012 Greatland - 613022 MTA - 613015 Ketchikan - 603013	CLEC	Rural
Interior Telephone Company, Inc.	613011 (all exchanges served, including previous GTE areas of Seward/Moose Pass)	ILEC	Rural
Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc.	613015	ILEC	Rural
Mukluk Telephone Company, Inc.	613016 (all exchanges served, including previous GTE exchange of Nome)	ILEC	Rural
North Country Telephone, Inc.	613026	ILEC	Rural
OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	613019	ILEC	Rural
Summit Telephone and Telegraph Company of Alaska, Inc.	613028	ILEC	Rural
United Utilities, Inc.	613023, UUI certificated service area	ILEC	Rural
United-KUC, Inc.	613023, United-KUC certificated service area	ILEC	Rural
Yukon Telephone Company	613025	ILEC	Rural

Letter to Dortch/Majcher  
Page 3 of 3

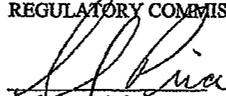
Our certification does not cover non-regulated wireline service areas and each carrier is responsible for self-certifying its compliance with Section 54.314(b) for such areas.

Our certification does not cover wireless carriers. These companies should be filing individual certifications with the FCC concerning the use of funds by a non-regulated entity.

Our certification does not preclude us from reviewing in further detail how any carrier has employed its federal universal service funds and ordering that use of funds comply with our directives or policies. Our decision does not bind us in future or pending rate cases and we reserve the right to conclude that a company should employ its universal service funding differently than it does today or in the future in light of more recent data or a more detailed review.

Sincerely,

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA



Anthony A. Price  
Chairman

Attachment B

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

STATE OF ALASKA

THE REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

Before Commissioners:

Anthony A. Price, Chairman  
Kate Giard  
Dave Harbour  
Mark K. Johnson  
Janis W. Wilson

In the Matter of the Request by GCI )  
COMMUNICATION CORP. d/b/a GENERAL )  
COMMUNICATION, INC. and GCI for )  
Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications )  
Carrier in the Glacier State Study Area Served )  
by ACS OF THE NORTHLAND, INC. d/b/a )  
ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, ACS )  
LOCAL SERVICE and ACS )

U-07-64

ORDER NO. 2

ORDER DESIGNATING ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIER  
STATUS, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS; AND REQUIRING FILINGS

BY THE COMMISSION:

Summary

We designate GCI Communication Corp. d/b/a General Communication,  
Inc. and GCI (GCI) as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) throughout the  
Glacier State study area served by ACS of the Northland, Inc. d/b/a Alaska  
Communications Systems, ACS Local Service and ACS (ACS-N), subject to conditions.  
We require GCI to file a description of its use of universal service funds (USF) on an  
annual basis. We also require GCI to file a report if it is incapable of providing service  
to any customer upon reasonable request.

Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-8222; TTY (907) 276-4533

Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-6222; TTY (907) 276-4533

1 Background

2 GCI filed an application for designation as an ETC throughout the Glacier  
3 State study area served by ACS-N.<sup>1</sup> We issued a public notice of the request for ETC  
4 status.<sup>2</sup> No comments were filed. We required GCI to file additional information.<sup>3</sup> GCI  
5 filed the required information.<sup>4</sup>

6 Discussion

7 ETC status allows a carrier to receive support from federal and state  
8 universal service funding to provide, maintain, and upgrade facilities and services for  
9 which the support is intended.<sup>5</sup> The supported services are described in 47 C.F.R. §  
10 54.101(a)(1)-(9). Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act),<sup>6</sup> a state  
11 commission designates a common carrier as an ETC.<sup>7</sup> An ETC must provide the  
12 supported universal telecommunications services throughout a defined service area.<sup>8</sup>  
13 In addition, the requesting carrier must meet the following criteria: (a) demonstrate that  
14 it owns some facilities used to provide the supported services (facilities requirement);

15  
16 <sup>1</sup>Verified Application by GCI Communication Corp. for Designation as a Carrier  
17 Eligible to Receive Federal and State Universal Service Support, filed June 20, 2007  
18 (Application). ACS-N's Glacier State study area consists of the following exchanges:  
19 North Pole, Delta Junction, Fort Greely, Nenana, Kenai, Soldotna, Homer, North Kenai,  
20 Ninilchik, Seldovia, and Kodiak.

21 <sup>2</sup>Notice of Utility's Application, dated June 28, 2007.

22 <sup>3</sup>Letter Order No. L0700408, dated September 5, 2007; Letter Order No.  
23 L0700462, dated November 1, 2007.

24 <sup>4</sup>Re: Letter Order L0700408, filed September 21, 2007 (Response); Re: Letter  
25 Order L0700462, filed November 8, 2007 (Second Response).

26 <sup>5</sup>47 U.S.C. § 254(e).

<sup>6</sup>Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996),  
amending the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151 *et seq.*

<sup>7</sup>47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2); 47 C.F.R. § 54.201(b).

<sup>8</sup>47 C.F.R. § 54.201(d).

Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-6222; TTY (907) 276-4533

1 (b) demonstrate that it is capable and committed to providing the nine basic services  
2 required by Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulation throughout the  
3 study area (service requirement);<sup>9</sup> (c) reasonably show that designating the carrier as  
4 an ETC is in the public interest; and (d) show that upon obtaining ETC status, the carrier  
5 will be able to offer and will advertise the availability of the services supported by the  
6 federal USF.<sup>10</sup>

7 Ownership of Facilities

8 GCI owns cable facilities in the Kodiak, Homer, Kenai, Soldotna, and  
9 North Pole exchanges.<sup>11</sup> GCI provides voice telephone service using these facilities in  
10

11  
12  
13 <sup>9</sup>47 C.F.R. § 54.101(b).

14 <sup>10</sup>47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) and (2) of the Act provide:

15 (1) Eligible telecommunications carriers

16 A common carrier designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier  
17 under paragraph (2), (3), or (6) shall be eligible to receive universal  
18 service support in accordance with section 254 of this title and shall,  
19 throughout the service area for which the designation is received --

20 (A) offer the services that are supported by Federal universal  
21 service support mechanisms under section 254(c) of this title, either  
22 using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and  
23 resale of another carrier's services (including the services offered by  
24 another eligible telecommunications carrier); and

25 (B) advertise the availability of such services and the charges  
26 therefore using media of general distribution.

(2) Designation of eligible telecommunications carriers

... Before designating an additional eligible telecommunications carrier  
for an area served by a rural telephone company, the State commission  
shall find that the designation is in the public interest.

<sup>11</sup>Application at 5.

Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-6222; TTY (907) 276-4533

1 the North Pole, Kodiak, Kenai, and Soldotna exchanges.<sup>12</sup> GCI filed maps of the  
2 Glacier State study area showing the location of its current cable facilities, the locations  
3 it plans to serve using its own facilities, and the locations it plans to serve through resale  
4 of other carriers' services.<sup>13</sup> We find that GCI has demonstrated that it owns some  
5 facilities in the Glacier State study area which provide the supported services and meet  
6 the facilities requirement for designation as an ETC in the study area.

7 Capability and Commitment

8 GCI must demonstrate its ability to provide each of the nine basic services  
9 designated by the FCC, including Lifeline and Link Up services,<sup>14</sup> or it must petition for  
10 additional time to complete network upgrades.<sup>15</sup> Although section 214(e)(1) of the Act  
11 requires an ETC to offer the services supported by the federal universal service support  
12 mechanisms, it does not require a carrier to actually be providing the supported services  
13 throughout the designated service area before designation as an ETC.<sup>16</sup> GCI must

14  
15 <sup>12</sup>Docket U-06-114, *Notification of GCI's Local Telephony Entry into the North*  
16 *Pole Exchange of the Glacier State Area*, filed March 23, 2007; Docket U-06-114,  
17 *Notification of GCI's Local Telephony Entry into the Kodiak Exchange of the Glacier*  
18 *State Area*, filed May 11, 2007; Docket U-06-114, *Notification of GCI's Local Telephony*  
19 *Entry into the Kenai and Soldotna Exchanges of the Glacier State Area*, filed July 6,  
20 2007.

21 Docket U-06-114 is titled *In the Matter of the Reporting and Service Compliance*  
22 *Requirements of GCI COMMUNICATION CORP. d/b/a GENERAL COMMUNICATION,*  
23 *INC. and GCI for Local Exchange Service in Rural Areas of Alaska.*

24 <sup>13</sup>Application, App. B.

25 <sup>14</sup>The Lifeline program is defined at 47 C.F.R. § 54.401(a). The Link Up program  
26 is defined at 47 C.F.R. § 54.411(a).

<sup>15</sup>The FCC allows a state commission to permit a carrier additional time to  
complete network upgrades to provide single-party service, access to enhanced 911  
(E911) service, or toll limitation. 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(c).

<sup>16</sup>*Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service; Western Wireless Corporation*  
*Petition for Preemption of an Order of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission,*  
Declaratory Ruling, CC Docket No. 96-45, 15 F.C.C.R. 15168, 15172-15174 (2000).

Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-6222; TTY (907) 276-4533

1 demonstrate its commitment and plans to provide the supported services using either its  
2 own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale throughout the requested  
3 ETC area if it is granted ETC status.

4 GCI asserts that it will provide voice grade access to the public switched  
5 network through its own facilities and through interconnection arrangements with  
6 ACS-N<sup>17</sup> and other local carriers.<sup>18</sup> GCI states that its local usage offerings will be  
7 comparable to those of ACS-N. GCI claims it will provide dual tone multi-frequency  
8 signaling, single party service, access to operator services, access to interexchange  
9 services, and access to directory services, and it can readily implement toll-limitation.<sup>19</sup>

10 GCI states that it will provide access to emergency services<sup>20</sup> to the extent  
11 the Public Service Access Point in the Glacier State study area have implemented 911

12  
13 <sup>17</sup>We approved GCI's interconnection agreement with the ACS Companies,  
14 which includes ACS-N, in Order U-07-44(2), *Order Approving Interconnection and  
Resale Agreement and Closing Docket*, dated June 28, 2007.

15 Docket U-07-44 is titled *In the Matter of the Negotiated Interconnection and  
16 Reciprocal Compensation Agreement Between ACS OF THE NORTHLAND, INC. d/b/a  
ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, ACS LOCAL SERVICE, and ACS; ACS OF  
ANCHORAGE, INC. d/b/a ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, ACS LOCAL  
17 SERVICES, and ACS; ACS OF ALASKA, INC. d/b/a ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS  
SYSTEMS, ACS LOCAL SERVICE, and ACS; and ACS OF FAIRBANKS, INC. d/b/a  
18 ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, ACS LOCAL SERVICE, and ACS and GCI  
19 COMMUNICATION CORP. d/b/a GENERAL COMMUNICATION, INC. and GCI.*

20 <sup>18</sup>GCI stated that it has a resale agreement with Dobson Cellular Systems, Inc.;  
Response at 1-5.

21 <sup>19</sup>Application at 6-8.

22 <sup>20</sup>*Id.* at 7. Access to emergency services includes access to services, such as  
23 911 and enhanced 911, provided by local governments or other public safety  
organizations. 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)(5). 911 is a service that permits a  
24 telecommunications user, by dialing the three-digit code "911" to call emergency  
services through a Public Service Access Point (PSAP) operated by the local  
25 government. E911 is a "911 service that includes the ability to provide automatic  
number identification . . . and automatic location information . . . ."

26

Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-6222; TTY (907) 276-4533

1 and enhanced 911 (E911) systems.<sup>21</sup> GCI is currently interconnected with the City of  
2 Kodiak PSAP to provide emergency services to its customers in Kodiak.<sup>22</sup> GCI states  
3 that it has discussed implementation of E911 service for Kenai, North Kenai, Soldotna,  
4 and Homer with the Kenai [Peninsula] Borough, which is the PSAP in those areas.<sup>23</sup>  
5 GCI is in the process of testing the 911 service trunks for its new switch in Soldotna and  
6 will perform similar testing when it installs switches in Kenai and Homer.<sup>24</sup> In North  
7 Pole, GCI will route 911 calls to ACS-N, which in turn routes the call to the PSAP in  
8 Fairbanks.<sup>25</sup> In the other communities in the Glacier State study area, GCI will rely on  
9 resale arrangements it has with ACS-N or Dobson in providing emergency services.<sup>26</sup>

10 GCI states that it will offer Lifeline and Link Up services to qualifying  
11 customers.<sup>27</sup> GCI commits to verifying continuing eligibility under 3 AAC 53.390. GCI  
12 states that Lifeline customers would receive basic local service for \$1 per month after  
13 the application of Lifeline discounts to the basic rate of \$11.88 per month.<sup>28</sup>

14  
15  
16 <sup>21</sup>47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)(5) requires an ETC to provide 911 service "to the extent  
17 the local government . . . has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems; PSAP per  
18 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(a)(5)."

19 <sup>22</sup>Response at 5.

20 <sup>23</sup>*Id.* at 5-6.

21 <sup>24</sup>*Id.* at 6.

22 <sup>25</sup>*Id.*

23 <sup>26</sup>*Id.* at 6-7.

24 <sup>27</sup>Application at 10-11.

25 <sup>28</sup>Second Response at 1.

Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-8222; TTY (907) 276-4533

1 GCI states that it will use a seven-step approach<sup>29</sup> to meet its ETC  
2 obligations to offer services, upon reasonable request, throughout the proposed service  
3 area, including areas where it does not currently have facilities.<sup>30</sup> If it is unable to  
4 provide service without incurring unreasonable construction costs, GCI states that it will  
5 file a report with the commission with the proposed construction costs and its position  
6 on whether the request for service is reasonable.<sup>31</sup> Additionally, GCI provided a  
7 *Network Improvement Plan* for building out its facilities over the next five years to  
8 enable it to provide more services throughout the proposed ETC service area with its  
9 own facilities.<sup>32</sup>

11  
12 <sup>29</sup>The seven-step plan for serving customers:

13 If the requesting customer is in an area GCI can serve with its  
14 existing facilities, GCI will provide service immediately. If the requesting  
15 customer is outside the area where GCI currently provides service, it will:

- 16 Step 1: determine whether the customer's equipment can be modified  
17 or replaced with any other technology to provide acceptable  
18 service;  
19 Step 2: determine whether network equipment can be deployed at the  
20 premises to provide service;  
21 Step 3: determine whether adjustments can be made to the nearest  
22 network location to provide service;  
23 Step 4: determine whether there are any other adjustments to the  
24 network or customer facilities that will enable service;  
25 Step 5: determine if the customer can be served under one of the  
26 existing resale agreements;  
Step 6: determine what additional facilities will be necessary to serve  
the customer, evaluate the cost and benefits or using universal  
service support to deploy those facilities to serve the customer  
requesting service and any others who may benefit;  
Step 7: determine whether the costs of serving a customer are not  
justified by the benefit of adding that customer to the network.  
In this event, GCI will notify the commission and provide it with  
its analysis.

<sup>30</sup>Application at 8-10.

<sup>31</sup>*Id.* at 9-10.

<sup>32</sup>Application, Network Improvement Plan.

Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-6222; TTY (907) 276-4533

1 GCI recently began providing service throughout the Glacier State study  
2 area.<sup>33</sup> We find that GCI has demonstrated that its strategy for providing service  
3 throughout the proposed ETC service area is reasonable. Accordingly, GCI meets the  
4 service requirement for designation as an ETC in the Glacier State study area.

5 Advertising Services

6 Section 214(e)(1)(B) of the Act requires an ETC to advertise the  
7 availability of the nine basic services, including Link Up and Lifeline, and the charges for  
8 the services, using media of general distribution. We require ETCs to meet the  
9 following minimum advertising requirements to ensure appropriate and sufficient  
10 customer notification of its services.<sup>34</sup> Therefore, we require GCI to file an affidavit  
11 certifying that it agrees to comply with these requirements:

- 12 1. once every two years, perform community outreach through  
13 appropriate community agencies by notifying those agencies of GCI's  
available services;
- 14 2. once every two years, post a list of its services on a school or  
15 community center bulletin board in each of the utility's exchanges;
- 16 3. once a year, provide a bill stuffer indicating its available services; and
- 17 4. once a year, advertise its services through the newspaper circulated in  
the locations it serves.

18 Public Interest Determination

19 In previous proceedings, we have relied upon the FCC's decision in its  
20 *Virginia Cellular* order that evaluation of the public interest requires review of a variety of  
21

22  
23 <sup>33</sup>Docket U-06-114, *Notification of GCI's Wholesale Local Telephony Entry into  
the Glacier State Area*, filed November 21, 2007.

24 <sup>34</sup>In the paragraphs addressing minimum advertising requirements, "services"  
25 refer to those services for which GCI receives universal service support. GCI need not  
26 advertise services not supported by universal service funding.

Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-6222; TTY (907) 276-4533

1 factors and cannot simply rest on "increased competition."<sup>35</sup> We have evaluated factors  
2 such as the availability of new service choices, higher quality service, affordable  
3 service, service to underserved and unserved customers, and improved public safety.  
4 GCI asserted that its designation as an ETC would promote these public interest  
5 factors.<sup>36</sup>

6 GCI states that it will offer customers competitive choices in service prices  
7 and service offerings.<sup>37</sup> GCI asserts it will offer new packages of local, internet, long  
8 distance, wireless, and cable services, and it will generally price its offerings below the  
9 incumbent prices for similar services.<sup>38</sup> GCI states that the availability of a second  
10 network would enhance public safety by providing options to communications systems  
11 in the event of an emergency.<sup>39</sup>

12 We find that GCI has reasonably demonstrated that its designation as an  
13 ETC is in the public interest. Further, GCI has demonstrated its capability and  
14 commitment to provide the supported services and otherwise meet the criteria for ETC  
15 status. We designate GCI as an ETC in the Glacier State study area, subject to  
16 conditions, effective the date of this order.

17 Conditions on ETC Status

18 The *Network Improvement Plan* provides GCI's planned network  
19 improvement projects in the Glacier State study area covering the years from 2007  
20

21 <sup>35</sup>*Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, Virginia Cellular, LLC Petition*  
22 *for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the Commonwealth of*  
23 *Virginia, CC Docket No. 96-45, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 19 F.C.C.R. 1563*  
24 *(2004), 2006 WL23190200 (F.C.C.) (Virginia Cellular).*

25 <sup>36</sup>Application at 15-18.

26 <sup>37</sup>*Id.* at 16-18.

<sup>38</sup>*Id.* at 17.

<sup>39</sup>*Id.*

Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-6222; TTY (907) 276-4533

1 through 2012.<sup>40</sup> The projects include installation of switches in Kodiak, Homer, Kenai,  
2 and Soldotna,<sup>41</sup> and the extension of cable plant in these exchanges.<sup>42</sup> Since most of  
3 the remaining projects will involve extension of cable plant, we require GCI to report to  
4 us within ninety days upon completion of extension of its cable network in a specific  
5 exchange.

6 We designate GCI as an ETC in the ACS-N's Glacier State study area,  
7 subject to conditions, effective the date of this order. Accordingly, GCI's obligations as  
8 an ETC start upon designation. These obligations include responding to reasonable  
9 requests for service from any location in the ACS-N Glacier State study area either by  
10 using its own facilities or by applying its seven-step plan, which includes resale of other  
11 carriers' services. Although GCI's network expansion will take place over the next five  
12 years, this situation does not prevent GCI from providing service anywhere in the  
13 Glacier State study area because GCI could provide service using either its existing  
14 facilities or by reselling other carriers' retail or wholesale services.

15 We have required other ETCs to report to us when they are unable to  
16 provide service to a potential customer in response to a reasonable request. We  
17 impose this requirement on GCI as well. Specifically, GCI shall file a report within thirty  
18 days if it cannot provide service to a potential customer upon reasonable request. The  
19 report must include GCI's position on whether the request for service is reasonable,  
20 whether service can be provided by any method, and whether high-cost funds should be  
21 expended on the request. GCI should be aware that for purposes of such report, GCI

22  
23 <sup>40</sup>Application, Network Improvement Plan, at 3.

24 <sup>41</sup>GCI will serve customers in North Pole using its existing switch in Fairbanks.

25 <sup>42</sup>Installation of Class 5 switch in Kodiak, Homer, Kenai, and Soldotna are all  
26 scheduled in 2007.

Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-6222; TTY (907) 276-4533

1 should include instances where a customer could have been served by resale but was  
2 denied service on the basis that the customer could not be served using GCI's own  
3 facilities.

4 Annual Certification

5 We monitor the continued appropriate use of universal service funding in  
6 our rural markets by requiring annual certification by all designated ETCs, including  
7 wireless carriers. Accordingly, we require GCI to file the same information required of  
8 all other rural ETCs in Alaska through our annual use-of-funds certification process.

9 Rulemaking Docket Regarding ETC Designation

10 We have opened a separate rulemaking docket to address standards  
11 applicable to carriers applying for ETC designation.<sup>43</sup> We anticipate that we will review  
12 and codify the criteria we have applied in evaluating ETC applications to date. We may  
13 establish additional criteria for ETC designation. We put GCI on notice that we may  
14 apply the criteria and requirements developed through this proceeding to existing ETCs.

15 Final Order

16 This order constitutes the final decision in this proceeding. This decision  
17 may be appealed within thirty days of the date of this order in accordance with  
18 AS 22.10.020(d) and the Alaska Rules of Court, Rule of Appellate Procedure  
19 (Ak. R. App. P.) 602(a)(2). In addition to the appellate rights afforded by  
20 AS 22.10.020(d), a party has the right to file a petition for reconsideration as permitted  
21 by 3 AAC 48.105. If such a petition is filed, the time period for filing an appeal is then  
22 calculated under Ak. R. App. P. 602(a)(2).  
23

24  
25 <sup>43</sup>See Docket R-06-3, *In the Matter of the Consideration of Regulations*  
26 *Regarding the Designation of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers.*

Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-6222; TTY (907) 276-4633

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

**ORDER**

THE COMMISSION THEREFORE ORDERS:

1. GCI Communication Corp. d/b/a General Communication, Inc. and GCI is designated as a carrier eligible to receive federal and state universal service support under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 in the Glacier State study area of ACS of the Northland, Inc. d/b/a Alaska Communications Systems, ACS Local Service and ACS, effective the date of this order, subject to conditions.

2. By 4 p.m., February 7, 2008, GCI Communication Corp. d/b/a General Communication, Inc. and GCI shall file certification, supported by an affidavit, that it agrees to comply with the advertising requirements and conditions discussed in the body of this order.

3. GCI Communication Corp. d/b/a General Communication, Inc. and GCI shall report to us within ninety days upon completion of the extension of its cable network as discussed in the body of this order.

4. GCI Communication Corp. d/b/a General Communication, Inc. and GCI shall report to us within thirty days of its determination of any instance in which it does not provide service to a potential customer in its eligible telecommunications carrier service area upon reasonable request as further described in this order.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

5. GCI Communication Corp. d/b/a General Communication, Inc. and  
GCI shall file responses to our requests for information for the annual use-of-funds  
certification to the Federal Communications Commission.

DATED AND EFFECTIVE at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of January, 2008.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION  
(Commissioners Anthony A. Price, Dave Harbour, and  
Janis W. Wilson, not participating.)



Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 276-6222; TTY (907) 276-4533

## Attachment C

### U-07-83(1) Data Response and Affidavit

Data to be provided by economically regulated Eligible Telecommunications Carriers receiving loop or switch federal universal service support.

Company Name: GCI Date: 2-6-08  
Contact Name: Rick Hitz  
Contact Phone Number: 868-5612

DATA IS TO BE PROVIDED BY SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH STUDY AREA SERVED.  
COMPANIES THAT HAVE PURCHASED GTE EXCHANGES SHOULD FILE SEPARATE FORMS  
FOR THEIR NON-GTE AND GTE AREAS.

STUDY AREA: Glacier State, Study Area 613010

Line	Data	USOA* Acct. No.	Amount Received For 2006+2007
1	Federal Local Loop Support:		0
2	Federal Local Switching Support:		0
3	State Local Switching Support		0
4	Total Federal and State Loop and Switching Support		0

\*For companies not required to follow the Uniformed System of Accounts (USOA), please indicate your account title and number.

EXH. B  
PAGE 1 OF 2

5. Explain how your company employed universal service funds received in the last twelve months. GCI did not receive any universal service funds for the Glacier State Study Area in the past 12 months.

6. Explain how your company plans to employ universal service funds to be received in 2008. For example, indicate how the funds will benefit your company's expansion plans, facilities deployment, or rates charge.

GCI will use USF support received in 2008 only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended pursuant to 47 USC 252(e) and 47 CFR 54.7. GCI will use the support, in part, to support network expansion in accordance with the Network Improvement Plan submitted in Docket U-07-64. Accordingly, GCI will utilize all federal universal service support received in the state of Alaska during the 2008 calendar year to, among other things, offer and advertize the services and functionalities supported by federal universal service support, maintain and upgrade the company's facilities and services, expand coverage, improve service quality and capacity, and enhance emergency operations.

7. Affidavit:

As an authorized corporate officer of General Communications, Inc. (Utility Name), the holder of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 489, issued by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, I declare under penalty of unsworn falsification that I have examined this form and to the best of my knowledge and belief it is true, correct, and complete.

I hereby affirm familiarity with and understanding of the requirements of the Communications Act of 1934 as Amended by The Telecommunications Act of 1996 with respect to the receipt of Universal Service Funds and affirm that such funds received in 2008 will be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 254(e).

Signature <i>F.W. Hitz, III</i>	Type or Print Name F.W. Hitz, III	Date 2/6/08
------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 6th day of February, A.D. 2008

NOTARY PUBLIC *Nancy Newell*

Commission Expires May 04, 2010

